

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A network system, comprising:

2 at least one network unit having a variable Internet protocol (IP) address and unique
3 identification information; and

4 an agent server, including a database for receiving and storing said variable IP address
5 and said unique identification information from said at least one network unit, and a control unit
6 for receiving said unique identification information of said at least one network unit from a user
7 over a network, for searching said database for said variable IP address of said at least one
8 network unit on the basis of the received unique identification information, and for enabling the
9 user to gain access to said at least one network unit in accordance with results of the searching of
10 said database.

1 2. The network system as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said agent server further includes
2 a communication unit for receiving said unique identification information and said variable IP
3 address from said at least one network unit, and for transferring said unique identification
4 information and said variable IP address to said database.

1 3. The network system as set forth in Claim 2, wherein said unique identification
2 information includes at least one of an Ethernet address of said at least one network unit, an
3 identifier of said at least one network unit, and a search keyword for said variable IP address of

4 said at least one network unit.

1 4. The network system as set forth in Claim 3, wherein said control unit receives at least
2 one of said Ethernet address, said identifier of said at least one network unit, and said search
3 keyword from the user over said network, compares said at least one of said Ethernet address,
4 said identifier of said at least one network unit, and said search keyword with data stored in said
5 database to produce a match, and searches for said variable IP address when the match is
6 produced.

1 5. The network system as set forth in Claim 4, wherein said data stored in said database
2 is updated at regular time intervals.

1 6. The network system as set forth in Claim 2, wherein said data stored in said database
2 is updated at regular time intervals.

1 7. A method of controlling a network system having an agent server and at least one
2 network unit, said method comprising the steps of:

3 (a) storing unique identification information and a variable IP address of said at least one
4 network unit in a database in said agent server;
5 (b) receiving data from a user over a network, comparing said received data with said
6 unique identification information stored in said database, and searching for said variable IP

7 address of said at least one network unit when said comparing produces a match; and
8 (c) connecting the user to said at least one network unit having the searched variable IP
9 address.

1 8. The method as set forth in Claim 7, further comprising the steps of receiving said
2 unique identification information and said variable IP address of said at least one network unit,
3 and transferring said unique identification information and said variable IP address of said at
4 least one network unit to said database in said agent server.

1 9. The method as set forth in Claim 8, wherein said unique identification information
2 includes at least one of an Ethernet address of said at least one network unit, an identifier of said
3 at least one network unit, and a search keyword for said variable IP address of said at least one
4 network unit.

1 10. The method as set forth in Claim 9, wherein said data received in step (b) comprises
2 at least one of said Ethernet address, said identifier and said search keyword.

1 11. The method as set forth in Claim 10, wherein data stored in said database is updated
2 at regular time intervals.

1 12. The method as set forth in Claim 9, wherein data stored in said database is updated at

2 regular time intervals.

1 13. A network system comprising an agent server and at least one network unit having a
2 variable Internet protocol (IP) address and unique identification information, said agent server,
3 comprising:

4 storing means for receiving and storing said variable IP address and said unique
5 identification information for each said at least one network unit;

6 receiving means for receiving, from a user, unique identification information for a
7 network unit selected by the user;

8 searching means for searching said storing means for said variable IP address of said
9 selected network unit on the basis of the unique identification information received from the
10 user; and

11 enabling means responsive to results produced by said searching means for enabling the
12 user to gain access to said selected network unit.

1 14. The network system as set forth in Claim 13, wherein said storing means comprises a
2 database and a communication unit, said communication unit receiving said unique identification
3 information and said variable IP address, and transferring said unique identification information
4 and said variable IP address to said database.

1 15. The network system as set forth in Claim 14, wherein said unique identification

2 information includes at least one of an Ethernet address of said at least one network unit, an
3 identifier of said at least one network unit, and a search keyword for said variable IP address of
4 said at least one network unit.

1 16. The network system as set forth in Claim 15, wherein said receiving means
2 comprises a control unit which receives, from the user, at least one of an Ethernet address, an
3 identifier and a search keyword corresponding to the network unit selected by the user.

1 17. The network system as set forth in Claim 14, wherein data stored in said database is
2 updated at regular time intervals.

1 18. The network system as set forth in Claim 13, wherein said receiving means
2 comprises a control unit which receives, from the user, at least one of an Ethernet address, an
3 identifier and a search keyword corresponding to the network unit selected by the user.

1 19. A method of controlling a network system having an agent server and at least one
2 network unit, said method comprising the steps of:

3 (a) storing unique identification information and a variable IP address of each said at
4 least one network unit in a database in said agent server;
5 (b) receiving, from a user, unique identification information corresponding to a network
6 unit selected by the user;

7 (c) comparing said unique identification information received from the user with said
8 unique identification information stored in said database;

11 (e) connecting the user to said selected network unit having the determined variable IP
12 address.

1 20. The method as set forth in Claim 19, wherein said unique identification information
2 includes at least one of an Ethernet address of said at least one network unit, an identifier of said
3 at least one network unit, and a search keyword for said variable IP address of said at least one
4 network unit.

1 21. The method as set forth in Claim 20, wherein the unique identification information
2 received from the user in step (b) comprises at least one of said Ethernet address, said identifier
3 and said search keyword.

1 22. The method as set forth in Claim 21, wherein said data stored in said database is
2 updated at regular time intervals.

1 23. The method as set forth in Claim 19, wherein the unique identification information
2 received from the user in step (b) comprises at least one of an Ethernet address, an identifier and

3 a search keyword.

1 24. The method as set forth in Claim 19, wherein said data stored in said database is
2 updated at regular time intervals.